



THE TOKEN HUNTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE
NATIONAL UTAH TOKEN SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER 1993
VOL. 12, NO. 9

Dedicated to Collecting, Recording and Preserving Medals and Tokens

OFFICERS			NEXT MEETING							PROGRAM	
			September							SEPTEMBER SPEAKER WILL BE GEORGE THOMPSON. HE IS THE AUTHOR OF SEVERAL EXCITING BOOKS. HE WILL SPEAK ON THE LOST RHODES MINES & OTHER TREASURES, LOST AND FOUND IN UTAH. BRING YOUR "FINDS OF THE MONTH" AND RAFFLE MONEY AND ENJOY A FUN MEETING.	
PRES.	BILL BROWN	942-4365	S	M	T	W	T	F	S		
V.P.	PHIL LAVORGNA	966-3141					1	2	3		4
TREA.	JOLENE HENDERSON	967-2975									
SEC.	KAREN SECOR	731-5437									
WAGON	ERIC JAMESON	582-6461	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		
MASTERS	BRUCE DUGGER	966-3661	12	13	14	15	16	17	18		
ERIC BERNKOPF		625-0721	19	20	21	22	23	24	25		
EDITOR	KAREN KAY	250-1663	26	27	28	29	30				

*****PRIZES*****PRIZES*****PRIZES*****

PRIZE LIST WAS NOT AVAILABLE AT THE TIME OF PUBLICATION. WE WILL HAVE THE SAME WONDERFUL TYPE OF PRIZES FOR OUR RAFFLE AS ALWAYS.

SPEAKER: GEORGE THOMPSON
BRING YOUR F.O.M.

ORIGINAL ARTICLE CONTEST
WINNER: BOB CAMPBELL

WE WANT EVERYONE TO PARTICIPATE IN AS MANY ACTIVITIES AS POSSIBLE. THE CLUB IS NOTHING WITHOUT YOU. A SPECIAL WELCOME IS EXTENDED TO ALL NEW MEMBERS. IF YOU HAVEN'T BEEN ACTIVE LATELY, PLEASE TRY TO COME OUT AND ENJOY OUR INTERESTING SPEAKERS AND SUPPORT THE CLUB.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear NUTS,

The annual club picnic and Bar-B-Q was a big success. Thanks to all the participants the food was excellent. For those unable to attend plan on coming next year. We had a great time.

The find of the month proved once again that there are still lots of nice things out there. The find of the month seems to be very successful and we would like to thank Bruce Dugger for his hard work in running it.

September's speaker will be one you won't want to miss. George Thompson will be speaking on the Lost Rhoads Mines and other Treasures Lost and Found in Utah. George is the author of several fascinating books on ghost towns, treasure and lost mines in Utah. He is an excellent speaker and it is always a great meeting when he visits our club.

Plan on attending. This will be one meeting you won't want to miss.

See you at the meeting!

Sincerely,
Bill Brown

WAGON MASTER BRUCE DUGGER

FIND OF THE MONTH (F.O.M.)

How would you like a small reward for your finds? The rules are simple, just read and keep the rule sheet. A Mercury dime will be awarded for first place in each category of F.O.M. competition. If you are interested in competing, bring a few of them to the September meeting, found since the last meeting. You will need to come a few minutes early to enter your finds. Questions? Call Bruce Dugger - 966-3661.

FINDS OF THE MONTH FOR JULY & AUGUST

We had the most tokens entered yet at the August Picnic Meeting.

U.S. COIN	B. DUGGER	1938 D BUFFALO NICKEL	TOKEN	J. HENDERSON SCOFIELD
FOREIGN COIN	T. ROSE	1944 20 CENTAVOS	JEWELRY	T. ROSE BROOCH
ARTIFACT	B. DUGGER	BUST OF U.S. GRANT	NON METAL	T. ROSE INK WELL
BUTTON	B. DUGGER	US ARMY BUTTON	OLDEST US CENT	T. ROSE 1868 INDIANHEAD
OLDEST US COIN	T. ROSE	1867 SHIELD NICKEL	MOST VAL US COIN	T. ROSE 1914 BUF. NICKEL

TOTAL ENTRIES: 27 FOR JULY AND AUG.

FIRST PRIZE AT THE END OF THE YEAR WILL BE A GOLD PIECE, SECOND & THIRD, SILVER PIECES.

FROM THE EDITOR

Send material for publication in the TOKEN HUNTER to: Karen Kay, 3871 South 6620 West, West Valley City, Utah 84120. Also, please make sure you call me (250-1663) with new addresses before the deadline so you will receive "THE TOKEN HUNTER" on time. YOUR ARTICLE, LETTER, ETC., MUST BE TO ME BY OCTOBER 11 TO BE IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER.

NEW "ORIGINAL ARTICLE CONTEST"

The response to our original article contest was disappointing to say the least, but we did receive one fine entry from Bob Campbell which is published in this edition of the Token Hunter. Thanks for taking the time to type up your entry and get it in, Bob, and congratulations on winning the contest. Thanks to Sarah Lewis for the cartoons we have been enjoying. We are still interested in receiving articles and will print them as space permits.

An interesting part of the coinage of the American West was carried out unknowingly by members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day-Saints (also popularly known as the "Mormons"). In the fall of 1841, Lieutenant General Joseph Smith, Jr. formed a regiment of the Illinois state militia, called the Nauvoo Legion. The legion was organized to train men to protect the members of the church from mob violence and other immediate threats. By 1844, the Nauvoo Legion grew to about 5000 men and was thus the largest military force west of the Mississippi River. During the summer of 1846, the United States government enlisted the Nauvoo Legion into the United States Army in order to fight in the Mexican War, for the legion was closer to the action than any other large militia. Known as the Mormon Battalion, the group of about 500 men then marched to the Mexican province of Alta, California during the winter of 1846-47. The battalion was under the command of Colonel Stephen W. Kearny. When the battalion was finally discharged from duty, its members began arriving in the Great Salt Lake Valley on July 29, 1847. Their arrival came less than one week after Brigham Young and the Mormon Pioneers entered the valley of the Great Salt Lake.

While serving in the California territory, some members of the Mormon Battalion stopped at Sutter's Mill on the American River. James W. Marshall, battalion veteran, was the first man to discover gold at the mill. This discovery, on January 24, 1848, led to the great California gold rush of 1849-59. However, Marshall and the other battalion members only stayed at Sutter's Mill long enough to dig sufficient gold in order to supply the minting of the Mormon gold coins in the Salt Lake Valley. The coins were greatly needed to compensate for the severe shortage of hard U.S. money in the Valley.

On November 25, 1848, the Deseret Mint was formed and the designs for the \$2 1/2, \$5, \$10, and \$20 gold coins were then drawn by Brigham Young, John Taylor, and John Kay. On the obverse is the motto "Holiness to the Lord" and the emblem of the priesthood, which is seen as a three-pointed Phrygian Crown over an "all-seeing eye of Jehovah." On the top of the reverse is displayed the initials G.S.L.C.P.G. (excepting the \$10 denomination in which "Pure Gold is just displayed), which stood for "Great Salt Lake City, Pure Gold." The two clasped

hands also on the reverse serve to represent friendship and exemplify the strength in unity. On the lower half of the reverse then appears the date "1849" and the denomination of the particular piece at the bottom. The \$10 denomination was the first to be struck during mid-December, 1848. Twenty-five coins were made. One week later, another 21 \$10 coins were struck and released for circulation. At this time, the crucibles that were used to melt the California gold for the coins were accidentally cracked and the coining operations had to cease.

Because the conditions were so primitive and the materials and skills were virtually non-existent in the Salt Lake Valley at the time, new crucibles were not obtained until September of 1849. The crucibles arrived from the east on wagon train, along with newly arriving Mormon pioneers. The minting was then restarted with a striking of all four denominations, dated 1849. The \$20 gold coin has the distinction of being the first \$20 denomination coin made in the United States.

Other Mormon Gold Coins were then minted with the dates of 1850 and 1860. They, however, were minted only in the \$5 denominations. The need for the newly minted coins was great because of the shortage of a medium of exchange in the western region of the United States. The gold coin's usefulness, however, was short-lived, for two new U.S. mints were opened in San Francisco, California (1854) and in Carson City, Nevada (1870). However, for that brief time during the great expansion of the western frontier, Mormon gold coins were among the few circulating monies in the region that allowed purchase of the goods from the East.

Today, Mormon Gold pieces are rare and revered by both numismatists and members of the Mormon church. The coins serve to remind us of the hardships in providing the West with sufficient coinage during its early settlement. The coins also serve as evidence of the self-reliance and cooperative efforts of a religious group that was simply seeking to worship as they believed.

by Bob Campbell:

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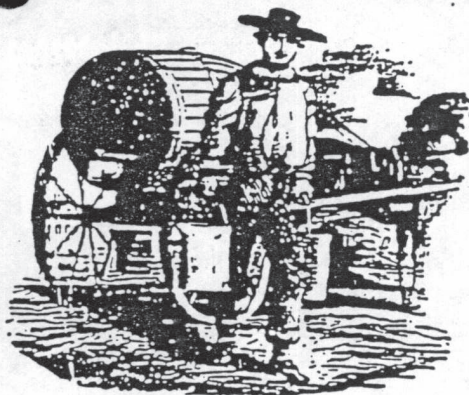
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